

August 6, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Commission head says Judge McCree 'unfit' for post, recommends removal

"The executive director of the Michigan Tenure Commission said Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wade McCree 'suffers from egomania' and is a 'narcissist' who is no longer fit to serve as a judge.... The commission is expected to make its decision within four weeks. The Michigan Supreme Court will ultimately make the decision on McCree's future. McCree has been suspended without pay from the bench since February."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Fate of McCree in misconduct case in hands of judicial commission

Full story

The MiLW Blog: JTC executive director: McCree is a 'narcissist' and an 'egomaniac'

Full story

WBJK-TV(2)/Detroit: McCree's attorney seemed to paraphrase Balzac at JTC hearing

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Michigan court takes look at kid's role in quadruple murder

"The Michigan appeals court is hearing the case of a young Detroit man who says he falsely confessed to killing four people when he was 14. Davontae Sanford's case has been in courts for years. It has an extraordinary wrinkle: A Detroit hit man, Vincent Smothers, told police that he committed the murders, not Sanford. He's willing to testify on Sanford's behalf."

Full story

Also see:

Associated Press: Court takes look at kid's role in quadruple murder

Full story

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Court takes look at kid's role in quadruple murder

Full story

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Detroit man who admitted 4 murders as teen asks court to allow withdrawal of guilty plea

Full story

The Detroit News: Judge says Detroit primary vote should go forward

"A Wayne County Circuit Court judge on Monday ruled it would be 'detrimental' to voters and candidates to hold up Tuesday's primary over questions about the number of election inspectors at each precinct and the timeliness of their appointments.... [Detroit City Clerk candidate D. Etta] Wilcoxon appears on the ballot after a legal battle that was settled last month with a ruling from the state Court of Appeals."

Full story

The Detroit News: Judge: DPS emergency manager has control over library commission

"Detroit Public Schools' emergency manager can remove and appoint members of the Detroit Public Library Commission, according to a recent judge's ruling.... Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette Berry ruled last week that 'although his actions may have no financial impact ... the plain language of the statute indicates that Plaintiff Roberts may take all actions previously authorized by the superintendent and the Board.' Roberts has since resigned and Jack Martin is emergency manager."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Judge joins forces with astronaut Tony England at policy conference

"Oakland County Circuit Judge Michael Warren addressed a gathering of public officials and business leaders at Fort Mackinac last week. Held for attendees of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce's Policy Conference, the reception was hosted by Patriot Week Inc. Warren spoke on the vital importance of renewing the spirit of America through Patriot Week."

Full story

HOM-TV(21)/Okemos: Meridian Magazine 08/05/13 show: Mock Supreme Court Trial

Video of area high school students in a mock Michigan Supreme Court hearing held at the Michigan Hall of Justice on Friday August 2. The video also includes an interview with Learning Center Coordinator Rachael Drenovsky (see 20:11-21:20 minute mark).

Full story

Jackson Citizen Patriot: City of Jackson officials quiet about court decision overturning stormwater utility fee, will likely discuss at Aug. 13 council meeting

"Mum's the word so far from city of Jackson officials on the Michigan Court of Appeals' ruling that the city's stormwater utility fee is illegal. In a published opinion released Friday, Aug. 2, the court ruled the city's stormwater fee an unconstitutional tax that violates the Headlee Amendment."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Long-serving professor enjoys challenges of mediation

"For almost six decades, George T. Roumell Jr. has taught labor and arbitration law at Michigan State University College of Law (formerly Detroit College of Law). More than 3,500 students have taken his courses and some went on to fame including Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Robert Colombo Jr.; trial attorney Geoffrey Fieger; former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer; Dan Downey, who became a judge in Texas; and a slew of judges on the federal court bench in Detroit, among them Lawrence Zatkoff, Patrick Duggan, Marianne Battani and Bernard Friedman."

Full story

The MiLW Blog: Former 48th District, Oakland judge dies at 81

"Judge Edward Avadenka, former judge for the 48th District Court (Bloomfield Township) and visiting judge for the Oakland County Circuit Court, died Aug. 5 at age 81. He served for the 48th District Court through 2004, when he retired, and went into private practice in addition to serving as an Oakland County visiting judge."

Full story

Also see:

The Oakland Press: Obituary: Judge Edward Avadenka

Full story

SBM Blog: In Memoriam: Hon. Edward Avadenka

Full story

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan's new tax on pensions challenged in court

"A class-action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of retired public employees against the state for extending Michigan's income tax to pensions.... The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that the pension tax does not violate the state constitution's protections against breaking contracts, but the retirees say that does not rule out a non-constitutional court challenge."

Full story

Also see:

WKAR News/East Lansing: Retirees Challenge Michigan Pension Tax In Court

Full story

The Oakland Press: Oakland County Circuit Court judges appointed to business court

"Oakland County Circuit Court judges James Alexander and Wendy Potts have been admitted to the American College of Business Court Judges.... The Michigan Supreme Court appointed Potts and Alexander to the Oakland County Circuit Court Business Court earlier this year. The Oakland County Circuit Court Business Court began taking cases on June 3."

Full story

The Oakland Press: Flint woman could face charges in crash at Oakland County Circuit Court that damaged 911 lines

"A 32-year-old Flint woman could face charges after a crash in the Oakland County Circuit Court parking lot in Pontiac hampered 911 service. The woman was driving through the south parking lot of the Oakland County Circuit Court when she accelerated, drove over a berm on the Telegraph Road side of the lot and hit an AT&T telephone junction box, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office."

Full story

Saginaw News: Saginaw County considers cellphone ban at courthouse, governmental center

"The next time you visit a courtroom or office inside the Saginaw County Governmental Center, you may need to leave a few things in your car. The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners is considering a ordinance that, with a few exceptions, would ban any cellphones or other electronic devices from being brought into the building, located at 111 S. Michigan in Saginaw."

Full story

Saginaw News: 'I hope I'm wrong:' Judge clarifies dismissal of lying charge facing wife of former Bay City businessman accused of Ponzi scheme

"A judge on Monday, Aug. 5, clarified his dismissal of a charge of lying to investigators against the wife of a former Bay City businessman charged with running a Ponzi scheme. At the request of the Michigan Attorney General's Office, Saginaw County Circuit Judge James T. Borchard clarified his July 19 ruling granting M. Viktoria Wilson's motion to 'quash,' or dismiss, the charge she faced in connection with the attorney general's office investigation into Joel I. Wilson."

[*Full story*](#)